

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA NEWSLETTER

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Rector and Doctor of the University of Bourges, 1624

Medieval flavour enhances excitement of Convocation

The silks and velvets of academic regalia which flower at Convocation each year are a vivid link with the Middle Ages when universities were sponsored by church leaders or wealthy princes.

The gowns of purple and royal blue corded silk worn by the Chancellor and President and the grey, gold and blue robes of the Board of Governors set the stage for graduating ceremonies in which the recipients of degrees themselves wear traditional dress.

The design of the "cappa" or gown and hood has changed little since the institution of Europe's oldest university in Bologna a thousand years ago, when academic gowns were worn to distinguish scholars from the townspeople.

The sweeping robes, like those of churchmen, added pomp and colour to ceremonial occasions and, in fact, it is said that scholars have participated in more



parades than any other professional group!

About half of the graduation gowns to be worn at Convocation on May 26 will have been rented for the occasion from the University Bookstore, thus reducing for some the expense of this impressive ceremony.

For university graduates in the eleventh century, however, the cost of Convocation was even more financially taxing. In Bologna for instance, a student who had completed four years of study and passed baccalaureate examinations was expected to wine and dine fellow students and distinguished guests after donning his hooded gown.

The recipient of a doctorate was paraded through the city preceded by trumpeters and pipers (all at his own expense) and was expected to bestow robes, gloves, money, caps and candy on university officials and colleagues.

Wealthy students sometimes staged tournaments as well and in Spain a new doctor would occasionally sponsor a bull-fight.

University of Victoria candidates for the degrees of bachelor, master and doctor wear designs based on Cambridge gown patterns with hoods similar to those worn by Oxford or Aberdeen University graduates.

In the early history of Oxford, proper attire for masters, or doctors, as distinguished from gowns worn by clerks and others, was specified in 1358. The regent's ordinance of that year states, "a tailor when he cuts and measures the material . . . shall dispose and measure the fabric in such a way as to give the masters and beadle their robes not as short and reduced garments, but as full length robes as they were wont to wear in times past." Penalty for violating this ordinance was punishment in prison.

Showy, secular garb such as puffed sleeves, ostentatious fur and pointed or embroidered shoes was prohibited in those days, but, as in modern times, the colours adopted to indicate professional disci-

plines, and the decorations of heraldic design on hoods, brightened the traditional black gown.

The hood, once a practical means of keeping warm a tonsured head, is now a cape-like addition to the gown and is designed in different lengths to indicate the academic standing of the wearer.



UVic's use of the Aberdeen University hood pattern for most regalia is, says Dean Peter Smith, Fine Arts, probably because of the association with this university of Dr. E.B. Paul, an Aberdeen graduate and early principal of Victoria College.

The mortarboard has a hazy history. Various references indicate that it represents either the mortarboard of a skilled workman, a hardcover book, or a university quadrangle!

Although logical symbolism and uniformity of faculty colours is lacking in much of the regalia worn at universities today,

certain disciplines are identifiable. The gold Bachelor of Science hood represents the wealth that research has given the world; Bachelor of Education hoods are blue, the colour of wisdom, truth and philosophy; Bachelor of Music hoods are pink in the Oxford tradition.

The Bachelor of Arts degree at UVic is identified by a scarlet silk hood, a colour which recalls the association of Victoria College with McGill University from 1903 to 1915. Traditionally, red indicates a degree in theology (symbolic of Christ's blood), and is a McGill colour. The green silk taffeta hood is often associated with a medical degree in European universities, but in North America, most often symbolizes a Bachelor of Fine Arts and is so used by UVic.

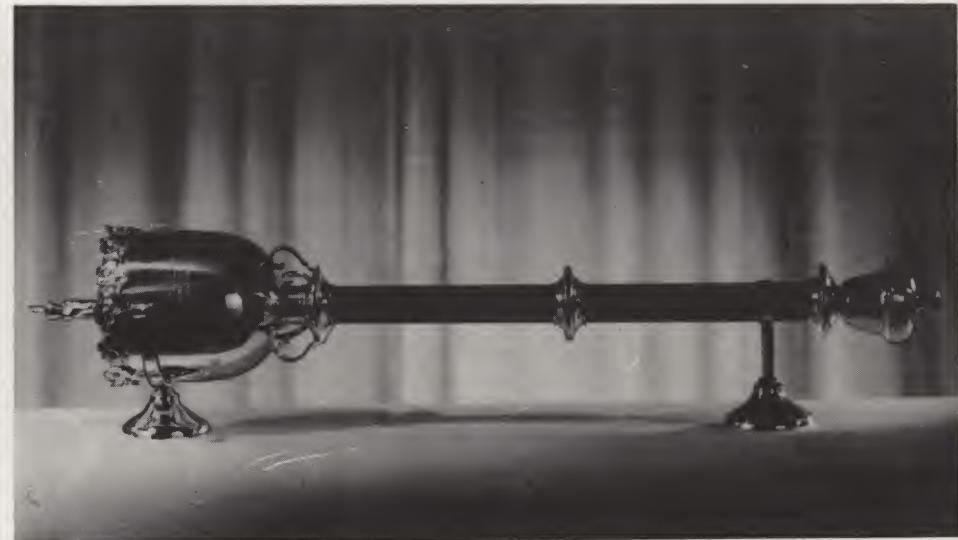
Most UVic head-dresses are mortarboards covered in black cloth, or velvet, except for the Tudor style cap of velvet with red cord trim worn by recipients of Honorary degrees of Doctor of Science, or Doctor of Laws.

Dean Smith, who was a member of the committee set up by the University Senate

to establish regalia styles, says that like other Canadian Universities, UVic sought advice from the Toronto firm of Harcourt, regalia consultants. "There are only a limited number of designs which can be used, and basically our choice was an aesthetic judgment", says Smith.



Illustrations this page, Oxford Statutes 1770



Symbol of Authority

The University of Victoria's dogwood-crowned mace which will be carried this year by Dr. J. Beattie MacLean is actually held upside-down!

Originally intended as a weapon of defence capable of breaking through armour, the mace was carried into battle by medieval bishops as a substitute for the sword (canonical law forbade the shedding of blood).

The base of the iron or steel mace was once a small button, emblazoned with a coat-of-arms. As its ceremonial use increased, however, the base was embellished with a crown and other ornaments, becoming the most significant part of the emblem.

The mace was adopted by the Serjeant-at-Arms of the King's Bodyguard during

the reign of Richard I of England and Phillip II of France.

Later it came to be regarded as a symbol of both Royal and Civic authority and by the sixteenth century was in general use.

To this day, the mace plays an important part in Parliamentary procedure and adds a historic note to occasions such as Convocation.

A New Chancellor

Dr. Robert Wallace will be installed as the fourth Chancellor at the University's tenth annual convocation, May 26, in the Memorial Arena.

The installation will be performed by The Honourable Walter S. Owen, Q.C., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

Dr. Wallace was elected Chancellor in December 1972 for a three-year term succeeding Roderick Haig-Brown.

Dr. Wallace, who received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University last year, and was also named Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, holds the longest teaching record of any professor during the history of the institution.

He was a student at Victoria College in 1924 and joined the faculty in 1933. He later became Director of the Evening Division, Acting Principal of Victoria College, Assistant to the Acting President, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Head of the Department of Mathematics, Dean of Administration, Acting President. He was Vice-President of the University when he retired in 1971.

The Robert T. Wallace Scholarship, established by friends in 1971, is a continuing reminder of his concern for, and interest in, young people.

Medal Winners

The Governor-General's Gold Medal will be one of three major awards given to top graduating students this Saturday at the tenth annual convocation.

The Dr. Maxwell Cameron Memorial Awards, two silver medals offered by the British Columbia Teachers Federation, will also be presented.

Kenneth George Davis, 21, 1527 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Victoria, will receive the Governor-General's Gold Medal awarded

annually to the candidate in the Faculty of Arts and Science, registered for the B.A. or B.Sc. degree, who stands at the head of the graduating class on the basis of the graduating average. Mr. Davis who is graduating in honours physics, received a grade point average of 8.85 on a scale of 9.

George Fraser, 35, 3270 Shelley Street, Victoria, and Shirley Ann Forrester, 34, of

Grand Forks, B.C. will each receive the Maxwell A. Cameron Award of a silver medal and prize.

The award is made annually by the B.C. Teachers Federation to students completing the final year of the B.Ed. degree who achieve the highest standing in general proficiency with a first-class standing in practice teaching.



Working backstage on the mass of detail necessary for the organization of Convocation and accompanying social events is Shari Yore, secretary to the Ceremonies and Special Events Committee. Committee Chairman is Marion Small, Education. Arrangements for the conferral of degrees on the 832 graduating students also include invitations to the University faculty, staff and guests.

Ceremony & Celebrations for 1973 Graduands

Convocation is a colourful and ceremonial climax to the years of study completed by graduating students.

The Baccalaureate Service tonight marks the beginning of a series of formal and informal events focussed around the conferring of degrees in the Memorial Arena on Saturday afternoon.

This is the first official meeting of the 1973 graduands with the University Faculty, members of the Senate, the Board of Governors and the Chancellor and will take place at the Metropolitan United Church.

The Rev. Albert E. King will welcome the congregation and The Rev. W.J. Lunny, Rector of St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, will lead the opening prayers. The Rev. Hugh M. Hunter, First United Church, will give the address.

Anthems sung by the Metropolitan United Church Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Don L. Kyle will add to the beauty of this traditional service and lesson readings will be given by University President Hugh E. Farquhar, and President of the 1973 Graduating Class, Robert J. McLeod.

Father Joseph Jackson, Pastor of St. Patrick's Oak Bay, will lead prayers for the graduates and the University and, following the Benediction and Choral Amen, the University Procession will leave the church with organist Eric T. Boothroyd playing the Recessional.

A wine and cheese party provides a contrasting note after the service with grads, parents and friends attending a reception in the Commons Block on UVic Campus.

A scroll will be presented to Dr. Leonard Laudadio, Economics, by the graduating class in "recognition of his personal dedication as a teacher at this University and in appreciation of the important role played by all members of the Faculty in our endeavours at the University of Victoria."

Before the Convocation ceremony on Saturday, President Farquhar will host a lunch for special guests in Craigdarroch seminar lounge.

Three honorary degree winners will attend the lunch: Margaret Jean Clay, Victoria Librarian; artist Jack Shadbolt, and George M.A. Grube, scholar and lecturer. All three will receive the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) in recognition of outstanding contributions to their disciplines.

The academic procession will reassemble for Convocation on Saturday afternoon in the Memorial Arena. Gowned and wearing hoods and caps, the graduands will move into their places, awaiting the conferral of degrees and the moment when they move their mortarboard tassel from right to left and are admitted to the Convocation of the University.

Lieutenant-Governor Walter S. Owen will be among the platform dignitaries and the program will include the official installation of Dr. Robert Wallace as Chancellor.

Short addresses and the Valedictory, to be given by Robert McDougall, will conclude the ceremony for graduates who will meet with parents and friends immediately afterwards for a reception on campus in the Commons Dining Room.

At the Empress Hotel, the Chancellor will entertain guests at an offical dinner but formalities are over for the grads.

The Grad Ball provides much-needed relaxation after the tensions of the two-day whirl, and is expected to be traditionally noisy and exuberant!



President of the 1973 Graduating Class, Robert J. McLeod, has been a member of the A.M.S. Council where he directed publications. McLeod is graduating with a B.A. and a Geography Major in physical and resource management. A member of the UVic curling, skiing and geography clubs, McLeod is also a Lieutenant in the Reserve Force, Canadian Scottish.



Valedictorian Robert McDougall has served as President of the Alma Mater Society captain of the UVic team on the television series University Challenge and is a member of the Senate.

Graduating with an Honours degree in History, McDougall has specialized in

Next Deadline

12 Noon, Friday, June 1
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Latin American studies. He leaves for Ottawa in June to join the Department of External Affairs as a Foreign Services Officer.

Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, MAY 25

- 12:30 pm Informal Soccer: Faculty, Staff and students are welcome to join game.
7:00 pm Baccalaureate Service, Metropolitan United Church, 1411 Quadra Street.
8:30 pm Graduation Party, Commons Dining Room, University of Victoria

SATURDAY, MAY 26

- 2:00 pm Convocation Ceremony, Victoria Memorial Arena, 1925 Blanshard Street
4:00 pm Convocation Reception (time approximate), Commons Dining Room, University of Victoria
9:00 pm Graduation Ball, Commons Dining Room, University of Victoria.

MONDAY, MAY 28

- 4:45 pm CUPE Local 951 General Meeting, 208/209 Commons Block

TUESDAY, MAY 29

- 12:30 pm Informal Soccer; all welcome

THURSDAY, MAY 31

- 8:00 pm Chess Club, Clearihue 128

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

- 12:30 pm Informal Soccer; all welcome

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

- 12:30 pm Informal Soccer; all welcome

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

- 8:00 pm Chess Club, Clearihue 128

AROUND THE RING
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VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA